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Senate District 22, Chuck Fellows

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Chuck Fellows

Democratic

Michigan Senate District 22

Livingston, Shiawassee & Southern Ingham County

Why are you running for office?

For most of my life I have avoided "professional politics" choosing to work quietly and locally as an active participant in the democratic process. Aside from local ballot issues, school board elections and appointed positions I have simply paid attention to issues which concern me, taxation, health and safety, education, business and local government.

I also became activist for local library funding and education reform. As the Vice Chair of my local Planning Commission and an appointee to the Michigan Department of Community Health I experienced local and state government processes. As a post retirement alternative high school teacher I experienced the need for educational reform first hand.

And who couldn't get concerned about the state budget morass and our economic meltdown.

I have the skills necessary to change the political paradigm that has ruled government for so long. Michigan must change to maximize opportunities for its citizens, the everyday people that do the work of creating a meaningful and prosperous future.

It's time we stopped obsessing about doing things right and started doing the right things. That's why I'm running for office.

What is the biggest problem facing Michigan residents today and how would you solve it?

Lack of job opportunities.

Work together with the legislature, the executive branch and private sector to improve the effectiveness of government's delivery of services in order to create an environment that nurtures meaningful business growth and development.

The MBT is a good place to start.

What's a better solution: finding revenue or cutting costs to meet Michigan's public education budget? How would you do it?

Neither.

Let our teachers teach and children learn! Move budgeting and management to the individual building level. The administrations role becomes teacher support, mentoring and coaching.

Invest in early education using the Early Childhood Investment Corporation model and support the "Sandbox Party."

End the practice of standardized testing and one size fits all curriculum and graduation requirements. This action will generate savings in excess of \$18.0 Million annually.

Adopt the Essential Schools Ten Principles (www.essentialschools.org) as a guide for pedagogy within our schools.

Give teachers the oprion of using district purchased texbooks or creating their own text material from authoritative (and current) Internet resources. See www.cnx.org for an example of how this is being done. Statewide millions in savings opportunities. It is the digital age!

What's the best way to create jobs for Michigan residents?

Create an environment that will encourage business leaders to invest the hoard of cash they are holding in Michigan enterprise. (Drive out fear)

Require all legislators to experience the barriers to investment from within the business community, outside of Lansing.

Listen to and act on the innovative proposals from the professionals hired by the public (civil service) as recommended by the Commission on Government Efficiency in December, 2009.

Increase the visibility of www.michigan.gov/business.

After you leave this earth, what will they say about you?

He gave without expectation.

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